Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this Application is requested.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 23-24 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelfer. (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0046194) in view of Bennett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,117,170).

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0004.

> "[0004] A postal system including a carrier for delivering mail and a franking machine is described in German OS 197 33 605 AI. For each piece of mail an identity certificate is produced by the franking machine containing information about the respective piece of mail, such as the required fee and mailing parameters. The identity certificate is printed on a self-adhesive label which is adhered to the piece of mail.
> The information contained in the identity certificate can be used by the carrier for delivering and billing purposes by reading the data from the identity certificate in a data center of the carrier before delivering the piece of mail. Further, an identity code for the piece of mail can be included in the identity certificate, selectively in readable form or as a bar code, which may be used for searching for a piece of mail in case of mailing errors."

Gelfer creates an identity certificate that is printed on a self adhesive label which is affixed to the mail.

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0007.

> "[0007] These objects are achieved in a postal system and method according to the invention wherein a label is applied to the piece of mail, e. g. a letter, that contains some son of identity code, e. g. bar code information identifying one or more pieces of mail. This label is fixed on the letter before sending it, e. g. during the franking process, and wm be removed from the letter and placed on a separate sheet of paper after delivery of the letter. The identity code will then be read when the carrier returns to the local post office, e. g. by using a scanner reading the bar code. It can then be used for tracking and tracing purposes, e. g. by sending a message to the sender informing the sender about the delivery."

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph [0008].

> "[0008] According to the invention it is not required that any letter carrier be equipped with a handheld scanner or any other reading device for reading the identity code. There is also no need for writing the identity code by hand, which is time consuming. It is much easier and faster to

> remove a label from a letter, place it on a separate sheet of paper, and read all labels centrally using an automatic reader."

Gelfer avoids hand held scanning of the mail at the delivery point by having the carrier remove a label from the mail and place the label on a separate piece of paper after delivery of the letter. The foregoing is done for all mail that has labels. The labels are then read at the post office.

Furthermore, Gelfer is not disclosing a method for tracking special service delivery by a courier of a mail item, but is disclosing a confirmation of delivery by a mail carrier that is accomplished by removing a label and placing the label on a separate sheet of paper and reading all labels that have been placed on the sheet centrally using an automatic reader.

The Examiner stated the following in page 7 of the May 22, 2008, Final Rejection.

Gelfer does not explicitly disclose applying at the mail room a unique office worker generated identifier to the mail item, the unique identifier including an electronic address of a company server; receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item; and providing the office worker with access to the company server to obtain the information relating to the location of the mail item.

However, Bennett et al. discloses the Shipper can use the System to locally print on the Shipper's printer device a bar-coded shipping label according the Selected Carrier's certification standards."

Bennett discloses the following in Col. 47, lines 45-63.

> "FIG. 53 is a graphic representation of an exemplary embodiment of a Reprint Label screen which provides a report about the package 454, a View Details button 451, and a Generate Label button 455. If the User clicks the Generate Label button 455, the System will generate and print a shipping label (69, FIG. 10e) for according to the appropriate Carrier and Service, as limited by the Seller and as finally selected by the Buyer. As mentioned above, in some embodiments, the Shipper can use the System to locally print on the Shipper's printer device a bar-coded shipping label according the Selected Carriers certification standards. In some embodiments, the bar-coded shipping label, including two

> dimensional bar code labels, and other types of shipping labels, can be printed on either a thermal label printer or on a laser printer. The Shipper specifies the type of printer to the system during initial setup procedures. Thereafter, the System uses, as appropriate, the thermal printer or laser printer module to prepare the label image for printing on the Shipper's printer."

What in fact constitutes "Selected Carrier's Certification standards," and the meaning of printing Selected Carrier's Certificate standards on a bar code label is not defined by Bennett with any degree of specificity.

The only reasonable interpretation of Selected Carrier's Certification standards with regards to bar coded shipping labels is a set of requirements to which a given bar code must conform in order to be processable by Carrier equipment systems and personnel, i.e., the bar code must be a specified size, at a specified location and have specified data content.

Bennett does not make tracking information directly accessible to the office worker like the invention claimed by Applicant in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon.

The cited art does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of claim 1 namely, automatically detecting at the mail room the special service indicator on the mail item and determining the special service delivery required based on the detection of the special service indicator; applying at the mail room a unique office worker generated identifier to the mail item, the unique identifier including an electronic address of a company server; receiving from the carrier at the electronic address obtained by the carrier from the unique identifier on the mail item information relating to the location of the mail item;

An advantage of applicant's claimed invention over the cited art is that applicant makes it easier for the office worker to track mail through a carrier process without utilizing more than one work station.

In Claim 2, the special service indicator is a specific color associated with the special service delivery.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate using a special service indicator that is a specific color that is associated with a special service delivery. An advantage of the foregoing is that when the special service indicator is color coded it is easily distinguishable to identify a specific special service associated with a specific color. For example, if only proof of deposit, delivery, and receipt are required a specific color or colors would be used.

The Examiner stated the following in pages 8 and 9 of the Final Rejection.

"As per claim 8, Gelfer does not explicitly disclose a method as recited wherein the information relating to the mail item includes an image of the mail item. However, Bennett et al. discloses FIG. 55 depicts a flow diagram of an exemplary embodiment of the aspect of the invention that provides printing of dimensionally accurate images, such as dimensionally sensitive symbologies including two-dimensional bar codes and other two-dimensional machine readable symbologies. This aspect of the invention provides the printing of such dimensionally accurate images on various types of printer devices including among others HP-compatible laser printers. The printer devices can be configured with remote computers, such as PC's, that will receive signals to print the dimensionally accurate image over a communications network such as the Internet. Each PC having a client browser or executing like software, and each PC being configured with a pre-established Image Resolution that applies to the display device and the printer device configured with the PC (col. 48, lines 43-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the invention of Gelfer with the features of Bennett et al. in order to generate an image of the mail item to be delivered providing the image is stored in the database for later usage as taught by Bennett et al. with the motivation of providing an image to an client."

Bennett discloses the following in col. 48, lines 43-63.

> "FIG. 55 depicts a flow diagram of an exemplary embodiment of the aspect of the invention that provides printing of dimensionally accurate images, such as dimensionally sensitive symbologies including two-dimensional bar codes and other two-dimensional machine readable symbologies. This aspect of the invention provides the printing of such

dimensionally accurate images on various types of printer devices including among others HP-compatible laser printers. The printer devices can be configured with remote computers, such as PC's, that will receive signals to print the dimensionally accurate image over a communications network such as the Internet. Each PC having a client browser or executing like software, and each PC being configured with a pre-established Image Resolution that applies to the display device and the printer device configured with the PC.
As depicted in FIG. 55, a computer, such as Server 20t as depicted in FIG. 7, determines the Image Size 1350, the Image Layout 1351, any relevant Image Data 1352, and the Image Resolution in Dots Per Inch ("DPI") or in any other measure of image Resolution 1353. The Server 20t uses this information to Generate the Image."

The Examiner cited Fig. 55 and col. 48, lines 43-63 of Bennett as evidence the Bennett discloses the generation of a mail item to be delivered from a carrier environment to an office working/shipper environment. In fact the above citation teaches how to make printed bar coded labels consistent with what Bennett refers to as Selected Carrier's Certification standards.

Applicant on the other hand discloses a method of delivering digital images after they have been captured by a carrier. This has nothing to do with printing on dimensionally accurate bar codes.

The Examiner stated the following on page 10, of the Final Rejection.

"As per claim 22, Gelfer discloses a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mail item is in a receptacle containing other mail items. (paragraphs [0016], [0020], Fig. 1)."

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0016:

[0016] In FIG. 1 a block diagram of a postal system according to the invention is shown. This postal system has a central postal service 1 where all pieces of mail are collected, sorted and distributed to carriers 5, 6, 7 belonging to or working together with the postal service 1 for delivering the pieces of mail. The postal system further includes franking machines 2, 3, 4 where pieces of mail are franked as usual and where postage meter indicia for a class of mail can be printed on the pieces of mail. For a class of mail that is covered by a track and trace requirement, a label 84 is prepared by printing the required identity code onto the label in the form of a bar code 85 containing the track and trace operation (see

FIG. 2). Thereafter the label can be a fixed automatically or by hand to the respective piece of mail 8 and put into the mailbox from where it is transported to the central postal) service 1 as indicated by arrows 16.

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0020:

"[0020] The postal system according to the invention makes it possible to track and trace pieces of mail during and after delivery. Each single piece of mail can have a unique identity code printed on the label which can be used to search [or it in case of a mailing mistake. A piece of mail 8 including a label 84 according to the invention is shown in FIG. 2. The envelope includes a window 80 for the address of the recipient of the mail, a postage indicia 81 comprising a two dimensional bar code including billing information and a banner 83 for private or advertising reasons. Further a self-adhesive label 84 is adhered to the envelope wherein a bar code 85 including the identity code is printed on a label 84. The position, size and form of the label 84 and the bar code 85 as shown are only examples, but are in general dependent on a standard that can be chosen by the postal administration and/or the carrier using these labels 84, It is further not necessary that bar codes be used. The identity code can be put onto the label 84 in any form but the form employed is preferably machine-readable. The identity code can be put onto the label 84 in encrypted form."

Gelfer discloses a mailbox from where the mail is picked up and is transported to the central post office. In paragraph 0021 on page 8 of Appellant's specification Appellant states the following:

"……..The trays 31 are placed on pallets 33 and the pallets 33 aggregated on transportation vehicles 35 (collectively refereed to as mail item receptacles)…"

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate a receptacle that contains mail items while the receptacle is transported in the delivery process.

The Examiner stated the following on page 10, of the Final Rejection.

"As per claim 23, Gelfer discloses a method as recited in claim 22, wherein the location of the receptacle is determined. (paragraph [0020])."

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph 0020:

Gelfer tracks pieces of mail by using identity codes that are printed on the mail.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate determining the location of a receptacle.

The Examiner stated the following on page 10, of the Office Action.

"As per claim 24, Gelfer discloses a method as recited in claim 23, wherein the location of the mail item is determinedly knowing the location of the receptacle. (paragraphs [0018] - [0020])."

Gelfer discloses the following in paragraph [0018] - [0020]:

[0018] When the piece of mail 8 is actually delivered to an addressee 17, the label 84 with a printed bar code on it is removed from the piece of mail 8 and sent back to the central postal service 1 via the same or another route as the piece of mail 8 (arrows U). This can easily be done by putting all label 84 on one or more sheets of paper and transporting them back to the postal service 1. In the postal service 1 the bar codes of these labels are read and are used to send a message back to the sender 2, 3 or 4 (arrows 12) informing the sender about successful delivery of his piece of mail 8. Further, in the central database of the storage memory 14, the respective identity code can be marked as delivered and/or deleted immediately or after a delay of some time.

[0019] One or more of the carriers 5, 6, 7 can be equipped with a reader 15 for reading the identity codes during delivery of the mail in order to register and monitor each station during delivery. An immediate response can also be sent back to the postal service 1 and, if required, to the sender 2, 3 or 4.

[0020] The postal system according to the invention makes it possible to track and trace pieces of mail during and after delivery. Each single piece of mail can have a unique identity code printed on the label which can be used to search for it in case of a mailing mistake. A piece of mail 8 inducing a label 84 according to the invention is shown in FIG. 2. The envelope includes a window 80 for the address of the recipient of the mail, a postage indicia 81 comprising a two dimensional bar code including billing information and a banner 83 for private or advertising reasons. Further a self-adhesive label 84 is adhered to the envelope wherein a bar code 8S including the identity code is printed on a label 84. The position, size and form of the label 84 and the bar code 8S as shown are only examples, but are in general dependent on a standard that can be chosen by the postal administration and/or the carrier using these labels 84, It is further not necessary that bar codes be used. The identity code can be put onto the label 84 in any form but the form employed is preferably machine-

readable. The identity code can be put onto the label 84 in encrypted form."

Gelfer tracks pieces of mail by using identity codes that are printed on the mail.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate determining the location of the mail item is by knowing the location of the receptacle

Claims 2-4 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gelfer (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0046194) in view of Bennett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,117,170) in further view of Bloom (U.S. Patent No. 6,974,928).

Bloom discloses the following in col. 142, line 3-12.

"The cases of temperature-controlled items can be received onto a RDC inbound receiving dock conveyor (32) and moved into the local market sort. Cases of temperature-controlled items can, for example, be labeled with a different color label or marked in some way to indicate that they contain temperature-controlled items. RDC workers performing the local market sort and the CDC sort can give a higher priority to cases of temperature controlled itcms to move them through the RDC faster."

Bloom discloses using a different colored label to indicate the presence of temperature controlled items.

The cited art do not disclose or anticpate using color to identify special delivery service of mail item to an office worker.

In view of the above claims 1-10 and 22-24 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would the Examiner please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 16-1885.

Respectfully submitted,

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